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Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 22690 051522Z

43
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF MANDATE - COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY (CSTP)

REF: STATE 180503

1. MISSION HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO MATTER OF RENEWAL OF CSTP MANDATE AND HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION IN SOME DETAIL WITH SCIENCE OFFICERS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS AND WITH SECRETARIAT. MEMBER COUNTRY AND TOP-LEVEL SECRETARIAT POSITIONS WILL NOT CRYSTALLIZE, HOWEVER, BEFORE SEPTEMBER. AT THAT TIME, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON THE CSTP'S 1977 AND LONGER-TERM WORK PROGRAMS, AS IT IS THIS RESPECT THAT THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE CSTP WILL BECOME MORE COGENT, RATHER THAN BY THE FORMULATION OF NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE.

2. FROM WHAT WE HAVE GATHERED SO FAR, THINKING IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND IN THE SECRETARIAT IS EVOLVING VERY MUCH ALONG THE ABOVE LINES. MOREOVER, THE NEW
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PAGE 02 OECD P 22690 051522Z

INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE REPRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN AIGRAIN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

AND DIRECTOR BECKLER HAVE PROVOKED A CLEAR EXPECTATION
THAT THE MANDATE, HOWEVER FORMULATED, WILL BE A
SECONDARY CONSIDERATION COMPARED WITH THE EFFECT OF
A COMBINED AIGRAIN-BECKLER IMPETUS TO AND MANAGEMENT OF
A RE-SHAPED PROGRAM.

3. THE PRESENT MANDATE, WHICH IN EFFECT GIVES CSTP
THE RIGHT TO EXIST AND OPERATE IN ITS FIELD, IS CON-
SIDERED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE AND COMPREHENSIVE
TO PERMIT EVEN A RADICAL RESTRUCTURING OF THE WORK
PROGRAM. THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE, HOWEVER, IS NOT
CONDUCIVE TO THE AUTOMATIC RENEWAL OF THE CSTP MANDATE
FOR A YEAR WHICH WE FEAR WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS
PUTTING THE CSTP AND BECKLER ON A ONE YEAR TRIAL,
WITH NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON MEMBER COUNTRY PARTICIPATION,
ON THE MORALE OF KEY SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL AND ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORK PROGRAM GENERALLY.

4. MISSION FEELS THAT A PREFERABLE AND MORE NORMAL
PROCEDURE WOULD BE TO REQUEST RENEWAL OF THE PRESENT
MANDATE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE OR FIVE YEARS. THIS
SHOULD NOT BE A DIFFICULT EXERCISE (EVEN ALLOWING FOR
POSSIBLE MINOR AMENDMENTS) AND WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
OF GIVING BECKLER AND THE CSTP BUREAU ENOUGH TIME TO
STRENGTHEN THE WORK PROGRAMS, BRING THEM IN LINE WITH
THE OECD'S OVERALL OBJECTIVES AND PRODUCE DIS-
CERNIBLE RESULTS.

5. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO
ABOVE COMMENTS.
TURNER

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